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Franklin County
Schools

Return to School 2020-2021

Family Guide

Moving Forward...



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The information in this guide is subject to change along with the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This version was originally published Thursday, August 13th, 2020.



Superintendent's Welcome

As Superintendent of Franklin County Schools, I know that our families have many questions regarding the 2020-21 school year. There is a great deal of uncertainty around the pandemic and its impact on all aspects of our lives. The plan for educating our students is one of the greatest priority areas in COVID-19 community response.

Please know that I speak for the Franklin County Board of Education when I say we are committed to meeting the needs of each of our



students during this challenging time. The Governor's office has asked that we develop three plans for reentry: Plans A, B and C.

This FCS Return to School Family

Guide provides a basic overview of our plans in a variety of areas, with a specific emphasis on information that we believe will be most relevant to our families. More detailed plans are also available on the Franklin County Schools website.

We will begin the year operating under Plan C—remote learning only. We will revisit this plan closer to the end of the first nine weeks [October 23rd]. At that time, we will make a determination regarding next steps based on the latest data on the spread of the virus in our community and its potential impact on the safe provision of instruction.

Plan C—remote learning only—will be much more robust than last spring, with daily attendance, an interactive instructional day, student accountability through assessments and grading, and specific supports for students who

are either struggling with key concepts or who are in need of an additional challenge.

As we begin the school year, our staff will be reporting onsite. This system will allow for our schools to continue to act as a hub for learning and support for meeting the non-academic needs of students. Please remain in contact with your child's school, reaching out with any questions or concerns that you may have.

We recognize that one of the biggest barriers to successful implementation of remote learning is internet access. In response, we are providing each of our students with a device—either a tablet or chromebook—for use during this remote period.

We are also working to offer WiFi access to families who are in need of assistance. The infrastructure in our county, although improving, continues to leave some families without access. We are providing WiFi in each of our school parking lots during the day. In addition, we have identified community partners who are sharing internet access as part of a partnership with Franklin County Schools, and we are outfitting 10 of our buses with a WiFi hotspot that can be accessed in more remote areas of the county that lack internet infrastructure.

We are also working to provide Kajeet Mobile SmartSpots [individual WiFi hotspots] to families who lack access at home. This isn't a perfect solution, but we are committed to ensuring that each of our students receive quality instruction during this remote learning period.

We will keep you posted as we move forward with implementation of Plan C, and eventually Plans B and A.

We appreciate the partnership!

Dr. Rhonda Schuhler, Superintendent
Franklin County Schools



Plan A, Plan B, Plan C

To provide students, teachers, and staff members with the greatest protections possible moving forward, North Carolina's government required the state's school districts to develop three plans that created different learning environments in response to the status of COVID-19.

The result was Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C:

Plan A: Daily in-person instruction with minimal social distancing

- All students will attend their schools at the same time.
- Face coverings will be required at all times.
- Measures will be in place to check on student safety, including temperature checks, daily health checks, and social distancing.

Plan B: Blended instruction with moderate social distancing

- Reduce student face-to-face attendance by at least 50%.
- Social distancing of 6 feet required, with the exception of school buses.
- Face coverings required at all times.
- Measures are in place to check on student safety, including temperature checks, daily health checks, and social distancing.

Plan C: Fully remote/online instruction

- All students learn remotely, utilizing technology.
- Packets may be provided as needed, but they are not the preferred method for instruction.

For more details about Plan A, Plan B and Plan C visit www.fcschools.net.



Academic Instruction

The Franklin County Board of Education voted Monday, July 27th to open the 2020-2021 school year with Plan C, fully remote, for at least nine weeks through Friday, October 23rd. The board retained the option to transition to Plan B, remote and face-to-face learning, based upon the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic. FCS will continue to monitor health and safety conditions in our community to make a determination for learning beyond the first nine weeks.

The remote learning instruction that students will receive under Plan C will look very different from what they received last spring. FCS has had more time to prepare, and we have developed a remote learning plan that focuses on meeting the needs of students when they are receiving instruction remotely.

- Instruction began August 7th for ECHS. Instruction begins August 17th for traditional calendar.
- Students are encouraged to log into devices and PowerSchool accounts prior to the first day.
- Students will be engaged in instruction for a full instructional day.
- Instruction will begin for all students at 8:30 a.m.
- The teacher will provide instruction via a Google Hangouts, which is an online, video meeting.
- The sessions will be recorded and posted in Canvas or Google Classroom on the class page.
- The sessions will last at least 30 minutes for elementary. Middle/high sessions will be longer.
- Sessions will be followed by time for students to work independently on assignments.
- The independent study time is called “asynchronous” instruction.
- Elementary/middle students will be instructed in ELA, math, science, social studies, electives.
- High school students will follow their four block schedule.
- Assessments will be conducted to gauge student understanding and target student needs.
- Grades will be administered to reflect student work and progress.



Attendance

Student and staff accountability is critical to success during the Plan C remote learning period. For students, attendance will be taken daily. The best way to engage and be in attendance for instruction is through logging in during the scheduled instructional time. This allows for a positive and meaningful two-way communication with the teacher when key concepts are being taught. It’s a time to listen, to ask questions, and to assist the teacher as he/she works to gauge student understanding. Students who are in need of consideration for a regular schedule that deviates from the classroom daily schedule will need to gain prior administrative approval. In order to provide the greatest flexibility to our families, while also establishing expectations for attendance, students can receive credit for class attendance in the following ways:

- Complete at least one daily assignment.
- Attend a Google Hangouts session hosted by the teacher (preferred method).
- Log into Google Classroom or Canvas to access teacher directions and assignments.



Athletics

Franklin County Schools athletic activities remain suspended until further notice. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s Board of Directors voted August 11th to adjust the fall sports schedule for all schools in the state. No athletic teams will be permitted to hold official tryouts or practices until at least November 4th. A brief look at some of the changes is included below:

- Cross country and volleyball will be the first sports played, November through early January.
- Football season has been shifted to begin in early February and run through early April.
- Swimming will start in late November and run through the end of January.
- Basketball season has been pushed to December. It will run through mid-February.
- Boys soccer and boys & girls’ lacrosse are scheduled for January through mid-March.
- Golf, boy’s tennis, girls’ soccer, and softball are scheduled for March and April.
- The sports year will end with baseball, girl’s tennis, track & field, and wrestling, mid-April to mid-June.

Info is subject to change based on COVID-19. Learn more at NCHSAA’s website: <https://www.nchsaa.org/>



Before and After School

Under Plan C, Before and After Care program services will not be provided. Under Plan A and Plan B, Before and After Care program services will be provided for enrolled students on all days that include face-to-face instruction. These services will be structured within the recommended safety guidelines from health officials. Additional information and updates will be forthcoming.



Calendars

All 16 schools in the Franklin County Schools district will observe the traditional calendar, except for Franklin County Early College High School. Youngsville Elementary School typically follows the year-round calendar. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, YES was converted to the Traditional Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year only. To review the district’s calendar’s for the 2020-2021 school year, please visit www.fcschools.net or visit the following link: [2020-2021 CALENDARS](#)



Exceptional Children’s Program

Franklin County Schools formed a task force specifically to address the needs of our students who are part of the Exceptional Children’s (EC) program. Many of these students may require additional or intensive services or different specially designed instruction under Plan C.

To help meet their needs during Plan C, and prepare them for a smooth reentry into the classroom environment during a shift to Plan A or Plan B, EC program staff members are currently reaching out to individual families. FCS is scheduling Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings with the families of our EC students, as well as making other arrangements as needed to prepare them for the start of remote learning.

EC students’ unique needs will be addressed differently with IEP plans specifically designed for implementation during Plan A, Plan B and Plan C to help students progress toward their goals.

[Return-to-School Guide](#)



Nutrition Services

FCS' Nutrition Services continues to provide nutritional meals for students. Meal services will continue following social distancing and safety protocols and be available at the following times, days and locations through Monday, August 31st:

- 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. •Monday through Friday •Through August 31
- Bunn High School •Franklinton Elementary School •Laurel Mill Elementary School
- Louisburg High School •Youngsville Elementary School

We are working to ensure that FCS families in need of meal services will continue to receive them throughout the remote learning of Plan C. If you haven't yet applied for free or reduced meal services, please visit FCS' website to apply now: <https://www.fcschools.net/domain/1376>



Pre-K

The program year will begin under Plan C on Tuesday, September 8th. FCS will utilize the Ready Rosie platform to support family engagement and supplemental instruction. Teachers will provide virtual instruction twice daily, with both live sessions and recorded sessions sent through email. Daily "live" sessions of 30 minutes will also be offered. Virtual parent-teacher conferences will take place August 31 - September 4. Once the year begins, Pre-K teachers will be available during regular office hours.



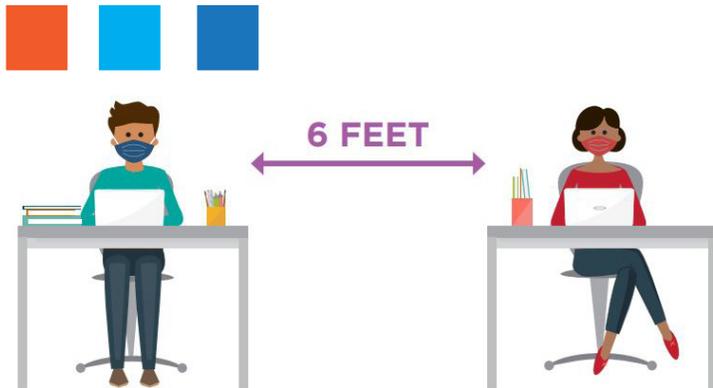
Resources

Boys & Girls Club of North Central NC: <http://www.bgcncnc.com/Join/Franklin/>
Franklin County Health Department: <https://www.franklincountync.us/services/health>
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov>
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t5Tqsrtqt-PaUsttqcCAettHQn65t3BeubPUlqlE9xs0/edit?ts=5f2c2ec7>
Franklin County: <https://www.franklincountync.us/>
Franklin County Childcare Centers: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1r39ixhqVtrY-5HkY6e0D_3RLjRAh9leJLT7Iwi4PqkvU/edit#gid=0
Franklin County Social Services: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/franklin-county-department-social-services>
Franklin County Schools website: www.fcschools.net
Franklin County Schools Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/fcsnc/?eid=ARDIjXFEIJ_Rqu5k2mlYk5V35eXajw_y6vvA-ZLKI3WgY2W1xRsEELwVtaw0Ye4uPve1JZ7J-pHug7L_U
Franklin County Schools Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FCSchoolsNC>
Franklin County Schools YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFptTBllh-wi-omX0tq1xRY2A>
Safespace: <http://ncsafespace.org/>
United Way of Franklin County: <https://www.uwfc.org/>

Safety Precautions

Any person entering a school or other facility is required to wear a face covering and pass through a symptom screening checkpoint, which includes a temperature check, prior to being granted permission to enter. This requirement includes students, teachers, staff, and other visitors. Screenings may be provided at the school entrance, prior to arrival at school, or upon boarding school transportation.

- Fever is determined by a measured temperature of 100.4 °F or greater.
- Individuals waiting to be screened must stand six feet apart from each other.
- The staff person and subject of temperature screenings must wear cloth face coverings.
- Temperatures are prohibited from being taken orally (under the tongue).
- Touchless thermometers will be used during health screenings.
- Staff person must wash hands or use hand sanitizer before touching the thermometer.
- Staff person must wear gloves, change them between direct contact, and wash hands.



Social Distancing, Face Coverings, Washing Hands

Under a Plan A, Plan B or Plan C scenario, Franklin County Schools will ensure that all students, staff and visitors wear face coverings, unless they are eating or engaged in strenuous physical activity and able to maintain 6 feet of distance from other people.

Appropriate face coverings must be worn by all students, teachers, staff and visitors on buses, inside school buildings, and anywhere on school grounds, including outside. All students and staff members will receive five reusable cloth face coverings. Individuals can also choose to provide their own face coverings. However, face shields are not considered adequate substitutes for face coverings, according to guidance from Franklin County health officials. Information will be disseminated regarding the proper way to wear a face covering, the appropriate way to remove them and how to launder. Parents will be responsible for laundering their child's face coverings as directed and ensuring that the student has a clean face covering prior to boarding transportation or arriving at school each day.

FCS will provide adequate supplies of soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels and tissues to support healthy hygiene behaviors. FCS will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older children.



Technology

The use of technology is critical during this unprecedented time.

Each Franklin County Schools student will receive a device for home use. For students in K-1, this device is a tablet. In grades 2-12, a chromebook will be provided. Schools have provided information on device pickup dates. Please be on the lookout for this guidance from your school. Reach out to your principal if you have not yet received that information.

For families without high-speed internet access, there are a few avenues for support. These include Kajeet Mobile SmartSpots, which are individual hotspots that are available through a FCS' application and approval process. In addition, WiFi access is available in certain areas of the parking lots at each of our 16 schools during the instructional day.

In addition, several community partners have volunteered to be designated as “free WiFi” spots (they are identified by a FCS WiFi decal in the window). All four of the county's libraries offer free WiFi service. FCS is also providing internet access through WiFi buses that will be stationed throughout the county in remote areas.



Transportation

Under Plan C, which is fully remote, transportation is not a part of the school day. Under Plan A or Plan B, however, transportation to and from school will look different depending upon which plan the district is following.

Under a Plan A or Plan B scenario, face coverings, social distancing and health screenings will be part of bus transportation. FCS will encourage the use of alternate transportation when possible. However, bus transportation will be available to students. No more than one student will be seated on a school bus seat at a time under Plan B, with certain exceptions made available for family members.

Hand sanitizer will be allowed on all school transportation vehicles for safe use by employees and older children. Frequently touched points of contact, such as doors and windows, grab handles, arm rests, hard seats, door handles, and seat belt buckles, will be cleaned and disinfected between each bus run with an EPA-approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Every bus will be cleaned between morning and afternoon runs and at the end of each day.

Franklin County Schools will be taking every possible step to ensure that your students remain safe while riding on district buses. Individuals must stay home and not board transportation if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone positive for COVID-19. Temperature checks and screening will be conducted before a student is allowed to board the bus. A parent or responsible adult must be present at the bus stop for EC and K-5 students—in the event that screening prohibits a child from boarding the bus.

Virtual Academy

Under Plan A or Plan B, Franklin County Schools' K-12 families have the option to choose the Virtual Academy for fully online instruction during the 2020-2021 school year.

Because Franklin County Schools is opening the school year and operating under Plan C—fully remote for at least the first nine weeks of the school year—all students will begin the 2020-2021 school year with fully remote instruction.

However, families who have chosen to enroll in and been accepted to the FCS Virtual Academy will retain the option to continue remote learning even after the district has transitioned to a Plan A or Plan B structure.

A survey will be sent to current Virtual Academy families later in the first nine weeks of the school year. The survey will ask Virtual Academy families if they wish to remain in the program moving forward.

FCS families who choose the Virtual Acad-

emy should expect the following details to be true for students across all grade levels:

- Students will remain enrolled at their current school as assigned by Student Assignment.
- Students will experience a schedule and grading structure similar to their peers engaging in daily, in-person or blended instruction.
- Instruction will be provided through a common online learning platform: Google Hangouts and Canvas.
- Learning opportunities will include both recorded and live instructional sessions, as well as individual work.
- Students will experience social and emotional support through meaningful connections and a classroom community.



Visitors

Franklin County Schools is limiting nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations. Yet, at times it may be necessary for visitors to enter a FCS facility. In those cases, any person entering a school or other facility is required to wear a face covering, maintain social distancing of six feet and pass through a symptom screening checkpoint prior to being granted permission to enter. These requirements include students, teachers, staff, and other visitors. Screening may be provided at the school entrance or upon boarding school transportation. In order to maximize the efficient use of time during a visit, FCS encourages visitors to contact the school to make an appointment.